



Serial No. 09/960,396
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Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An access authentication system for authenticating access to a first wireless local area network (W-LAN), the operator of which administers a visitor authentication, authorization and accounting (VAAA) server, wherein:

a user requesting visiting access to the first W-LAN, and having a mobile telephone, a valid cellular mobile account for the mobile telephone, a portable computing device with a browser, and a registration with a second W-LAN operator that administers a home authentication, authorization and accounting (HAAA) server, conveys to the VAAA server, by user intervention, identity information sufficient to enable said VAAA server to communicate with said HAAA server so as to authenticate the proposed connection;

said HAAA issues a personal identification number (PIN);

the PIN is encoded and forwarded to the user's mobile telephone and transferred to the browser to authenticate the requested visiting access to the W-LAN;

the cost of such access is billed to the user's cellular mobile account; and

the requested access is achieved via the user's browser.

2. (Original) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the transfer of the PIN to the browser is effected manually by the user.

3. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1 wherein the portable computing device is coupled to the mobile telephone, and the transfer of the PIN to the browser is effected automatically by software supported by the portable computing device.

4. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the PIN issued by the HAAA is encoded and forwarded to the user's mobile telephone by means of a short message service center.

5. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the user employs the browser to convey said identity information, via the first W-LAN, to the VAAA.

6. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the PIN is combined with masking information.

7. (Original) A system according to Claim 6 wherein said masking information is randomly derived.

8. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the user calls the VAAA on the mobile telephone.

9. (Original) A system according to Claim 8 wherein the telephone call from said user is routed to the HAAA through a premium rate call unit.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method for obtaining access to a first wireless local area network (W-LAN), the method comprising the acts of: transmitting, by a mobile telephone to a visitor authentication, authorization and accounting (VAAA) server, a request for access to the first W-

LAN, the request including identity information of a home authentication, authorization and accounting (HAAA) server; receiving, by the mobile telephone from the HAAA server, a personal identification number (PIN); transferring the PIN to a browser of a portable computing device; and accessing the first W-LAN using the portable computing device after the browser receives the PIN.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the PIN is transferred to the browser by a user of the mobile telephone and portable computing device.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the portable computing device is coupled to the mobile telephone, and the transfer of the PIN to the browser is effected automatically via a wireless link.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the mobile telephone receives the PIN from the HAAA server via a short message service center.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the act of the mobile telephone calling the VAAA.

16. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for providing user access to a first wireless local area network (W-LAN), the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, by a home authentication, authorization and accounting (HAAA) server of a second W-LAN from a visitor authentication, authorization and accounting (VAAA) server of the first W-LAN, a request for access to the first W-LAN;

establishing, by the second W-LAN, a W-LAN account for the user;

generating, by the HAAA server, a personal identification number (PIN);

transmitting, by the HAAA server, the PIN to the user; and

billing the user's cellular mobile account with the second W-LAN for access to the first W-LAN.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the HAAA server receives the request for access from the VAAA via a gateway.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the HAAA server receives the request for access from the VAAA via a premium rate call unit.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the PIN is transmitted to the user via a short message service center.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the PIN is encoded with a mask prior to transmitting the PIN to the user.

21. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 3, wherein the portable computing device is coupled to the mobile telephone via a wireless link.

22. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising the acts of:
receiving, by the HAAA server of a second W-LAN from the VAAA server of the first W-LAN, the request for access to the first W-LAN;
establishing, by the second W-LAN, a W-LAN account for a user of the mobile telephone;
generating, by the HAAA server, the PIN;
transmitting, by the HAAA server, the PIN to the user; and
billing the user's cellular mobile account for access to the first W-LAN.